

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Andre et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,299,393 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*May 21, 2019**

(54) **THREE-DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURES AND RELATED METHODS OF FORMING THREE-DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURES**

**26/362** (2013.01); **B23K 26/38** (2013.01);  
**B23K 26/382** (2015.10); **B23K 26/402**  
(2013.01); **B23P 13/00** (2013.01); **B29C 67/00**  
(2013.01);

(71) Applicant: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

(Continued)

(72) Inventors: **Bartley K. Andre**, Menlo Park, CA (US); **Matthew Dean Rohrbach**, San Francisco, CA (US); **Peter N. Russell-Clarke**, San Francisco, CA (US)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC ..... H05K 5/02; H05K 5/03; B23K 26/361;  
B23K 26/362; B23K 26/38; B23K  
2103/50; B44C 1/228; B44C 1/227; B44C  
1/22; B05D 3/06; B05D 3/10; B05D  
3/12; B29C 67/00; B23P 13/00; Y10T  
428/13; Y10T 428/24273; Y10T 29/49995  
See application file for complete search history.

(73) Assignee: **APPLE INC.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(56)

**References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

5,878,487 A 3/1999 Mcmillan et al.  
6,203,885 B1 3/2001 Sher et al.

(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **16/163,129**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 17, 2018**

*Primary Examiner* — Michael C Miggins

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Dorsey & Whitney LLP

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2019/0053389 A1 Feb. 14, 2019

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Continuation of application No. 15/017,545, filed on Feb. 5, 2016, now Pat. No. 10,117,343, which is a (Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

**H05K 5/02** (2006.01)

**B23P 13/00** (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **H05K 5/02** (2013.01); **B05D 3/06**  
(2013.01); **B05D 3/10** (2013.01); **B05D 3/12**  
(2013.01); **B23K 26/361** (2015.10); **B23K**

(57)

**ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure provides three-dimensional structures and related methods. The three-dimensional structures may define patterns of positive and negative spaces on opposing surfaces that combine to form the three-dimensional structures. The negative spaces of the patterns may intersect to form apertures through the three-dimensional structures, which may define linear or non-linear paths therethrough. The apertures may be configured to provide desirable characteristics with respect to light, sound, and fluid travel therethrough. Further, the three-dimensional structures may be configured to define desired stiffness, weight, and/or flexibility. The three-dimensional structures may be employed in embodiments including heat sinks, housings, speaker or vent covers, springs, etc.

**20 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets**

